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NO. 13

## STEP TOWARD SINGLE TAX

### Oregon Tax Reform Association Files Petition with Secretary of State--Signed by Thousands

The petition for the submission of the constitutional amendment drafted by the Oregon Tax Reform association has just been filed with the secretary of state. The signers came from all parts of the state in such numbers that it is the strongest petition ever submitted. That these signatures, numbering several thousand more than the number required by law, were obtained more easily than other petitions, indicates widespread interest in this amendment.

It proposes a decided step toward the single tax; as far in that direction as conditions in Oregon are thought to permit—taxing land values (not acres) and exempting (the text of the amendment reads) — "all dwelling houses, barns, sheds, outhouses and all other appurtenances thereto, all fences, all machinery and buildings used exclusively for manufacturing purposes, and the appurtenances thereto, all fences, farm machinery and appliances used as such, all fruit trees, vines, shrubs and all other improvements on farms, all live stock, all household furniture in use, and all tools owned by workmen and in use, shall be exempt from taxation."

Many of the greatest Americans of all political faiths, have endorsed the principles embodied in this amendment. Among them, Senator LaFollette, Gov. Folk, Tom Johnson, Henry George, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Lyman Abbott, and ex-Governors Douglas and Garvin. They sympathize with the idea of raising the needed revenues for carrying on our government, and at the same time discourage land monopoly, by taxing land and franchise values more, and exempting improvements and personal property.

Some object to the proposition, because it exempts buildings and machinery of manufacturers from taxation. It does so. In this connection, say well informed men, Oregon is asked to follow well trodden paths. It is pointed out that Oregon has most favorable natural opportunities and conditions for the establishment of manufacturing enterprises. Other states have exempted manufacturing buildings from taxation because it was found to aid development, enhance land values, attract other forms of capital, as well as population, and worked to the general good without a single exception.

Some think the farmer would have to pay as much taxes as ever before, to exempt improvements, live stock, machinery, etc., would simply double the taxes on his land and thereby leave the producing agriculturist where he is now. That would be so if the farmer owned the land values in Oregon—but to begin with, two-thirds of the land values of Oregon are in cities. Land for purposes of taxation is measured by a dollar. A section of land in some parts of Oregon would be dear at \$640 but a few square feet of land in Portland are worth more than many sections of such lands. Recently real estate transactions in that city showed that there are 80 acres, worth on the average \$1,600,000 each. An acre of this land is worth as much as 32,000 acres of the best farming land in the state, estimating it devoid of improvements, at \$50 per acre.

Farmers now pay more than 50 per cent of state taxes while numbering less than 25 per cent of the population. But as long as the farmer's improvements are taxable, they cannot escape, as they are not

## THE CITY FATHERS IN SESSION

### Regular Weekly Accumulation of Municipal Business Taken Up and Disposed of as Seemeth Most Wise to the Dads

The 45th session of the city council convened in the council chamber Tuesday evening and after the preliminary sparring the mayor suspended the regular routine and gave some visitors an opportunity to display their oratory respecting the merits of their schemes:

Mr. Ireland representing Beal & Co. manufacturers, agents for road machines and rock crushers was the first victim and spent about an hour explaining the merits of his various machines and stated he had rock crushers varying in prices from \$1,300 to 4000 and of all styles. His stock of road rollers was not so varied and he did not give prices.

He was followed by Mr. Hickman for the Pacific States telephone company, who asked permission to lay underground conduit for his wires from New York street to about the French block along Jersey street and from Jersey street west along Philadelphia and Burlington street to Hayes. The council granted the request by resolution, as it was in accordance with the terms of their franchise.

The recorder reported that the Home telephone company had complied with the terms of their franchise in the payment of the \$200 compensation for the same, but has done no work toward establishing an office here or erecting lines.

The Pacific States has begun the work of hauling poles and Mr. Hickman stated that the work would be pushed vigorously and a central office put in here as soon as possible. This should give St. Johns vastly better service than she has been used to and we hope it will be done for the service now is abominable and is in fact almost worthless.

A petition was presented asking

for an arc light at the intersection of John and Gresham streets and was referred to the committee on water and light.

A deed from Nancy Caples conveying an extension of Tyler street to the city was read and referred to the street committee for the necessary action.

On motion of King the following bills were allowed and ordered paid: W. E. Godsey, ironwork on doors, \$6; C. E. Wheelock, rent of wagon in work about the city hall, \$3; Hendricks Hardware Co., stove, etc., \$4.70; St. Johns Electric works, wiring, etc., \$2.20; St. Johns Review, \$59.25; C. H. Derric, \$3.50; Couch & Co., \$2.35; Potter & Gould, \$16.85; St. Johns Lumber Co., wood for sick family, \$4; E. B. Goad, labor, \$7; E. A. Hulse, \$7; Jas. McClellan, \$6. Total of 12 bills \$121.85. On motion of Dobie after some discussion the bill of \$538 for the heater of the city hall in favor of McPherson Co. was allowed.

The report of the ferry committee was deferred until next week. Alderman Leggett reported that he had been to see the commissioners, and as usual Judge Webster was "busy" another member was away in California and one was out of town. The board is to meet today and Mr. Leggett expects to see them then.

It was the sense of the council that the bill of Mr. Whyte for wiring the city hall should stand as recommended by the committee, and the recorder was instructed to so inform him.

The pool room ordinance was presented by motion for its final passage by Councilman Leggett. After considerable squirming and insistence upon the part of the mayor, who insisted upon some sort of action, Walker gave his

second to the motion and it passed to ballot, Walker and Leggett voting for the ordinance and the other five voting no.

Ordinance controlling the construction of cement sidewalks was presented and railroad through to publication. It appears in this issue.

The city engineer reported that he had completed fire hydrant maps and also city boundary maps for the use of the department and voters respectively.

There was nothing doing in the way of improving the streets and if we might be able to suggest that the time is rapidly drawing near when the utmost activity will be necessary in order to meet the requirements of the city in this line, it looks like all arrangements for gravel or crushed rock should be completed as early as possible. If this is not done another summer is liable to pass like to last without anything substantial being done on these streets.

One thing we will have an engineer to superintend the work and will not have to defer any work on that account. The principal streets along the car line and particularly in the business section should be placed in the very best possible condition. Jersey street should have some kind of pavement. The streets leading into it should be graded and graveled for several blocks each side at least and many other streets such as Fillmore, Edison, Tacoma, Baltimore, Chicago, Fessenden, New York and others that have not been improved should be graded and graveled. If this can be done in the early spring and summer, next winter will not find our streets in the disgraceful condition so much in evidence this winter.

## STATE C. E. CONVENTION

### Eighteenth State Convention Meets at Eugene This Year--Fire Chiefs Visit School

Plans for the eighteenth state convention of the Oregon Christian Endeavor union to be held in Eugene, February 20 to 23 inclusive, are well under way. The state president, Rev. C. T. Hurd, of Corvallis, announces that a strong set of speakers is being secured for the convention. The list includes Rev. L. R. Dyott, pastor of the First Congregational church of Portland; W. H. Foulks, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Portland; President P. L. Campbell of the University of Oregon; President Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural college; Revs. J. J. Evans, D. A. Thompson, A. A. Winter and others.

The program is not yet complete, but it includes conferences for the delegates, and open meetings for the people of Eugene; also three simultaneous meetings for Sunday afternoon, the last day of the convention—one each for men, women and children.

The railroads have granted the usual one and one-third fare to all delegates.

Eugene Endeavorers have organized the necessary committees, and will provide entertainment for all accredited delegates. H. A. Scullen is chairman of the entertainment committee, and all names of delegates should be sent to him.

There are between 200 and 300 of the Christian Endeavor societies in the state, and an attendance of fully 200 delegates is expected.

fire in the stairway the pupils would not be cut off from all exit.

While there Professor Alderson gave an exhibition fire drill and cleared the building of every pupil in a little over three minutes and assured the boys that the next time they came they would clear the building in less than three minutes. The fire boys think the professor and the school have the fire-drill down fine, and with the fire escapes so that the pupils could make an exit even if the stairs were on fire, there would be no possibility of the young people being burned, but these fire escapes are necessary for safety and that if the stairs should be burned so as to cut off exit there the pupils would have to jump from the upper windows and many would be injured or killed.

**Vote Against Annexation.**

At a meeting of the citizens held in Woodstock last week to discuss annexation with representatives from Creston, Arleta, Woodmere, and Woodstock the vote taken after the discussion resulted in 14 against annexation to 11 for it. This from a section where the arguments in favor of annexation are too one as compared with St. Johns. When these people, who have some chance to gain something, and nothing particularly to lose, vote against annexation what must one think of the superlatively idiotic idea of St. Johns voting for annexation. A man who would wish to vote away his birthright in such a manner should have a guardian appointed to shield him from the consequence of his own incompetence.

J. C. Aiken, who has been ill with the grip for the past two or three weeks returned to his work again this week.

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of the nature to be hid. If the farmer has anything exempt, it must be exempted open and above board by law. The land held in cities, for water power, for timber and minerals, for speculative purposes and rights of way in various forms, far exceeds the value of the land owned by the working farmers of Oregon.

The main tax burden will be shifted to valuable locations in cities and railroad franchises, which values are mainly made up by tribute paid by the industry and improvements of the rest of the state, and should justly bear the burden.

The proposed amendment is practical, up to date, its provisions have been tested and worked. The people of Oregon will have this question before them for four months. They will hear much of it. The headquarters of the Ore-

gon Tax Reform association are at room 705 Marquam building, for the present, and they are glad to give out information to all who may ask for it.

### "The Man From Oregon."

Delegates from all over the United States were assembled in convention of the National Grand Lodge of Good Templars last July in Seattle. Mrs. E. S. Vandervoort of Salem, Ore. and Francis J. McHenry of Portland, were the sole representatives of our state in that notable convention of eminent men and women. Mr. McHenry first attracted attention therein in seconding the nomination of the Hon. Geo. F. Cotterill, as National Chief Templar. That and other good work for the cause of temperance during the convention caused

him to be hailed as the man from Oregon and later selected as the national grand marshal, which position he still holds, which was, however, an honor that Oregon's small membership hardly entitled it to at the time. Since returning from there he has been in constant demand, and answering as much as his business will permit to constant calls for talks on temperance, even having made a trip back to the Sound country at behest of the Washington Grand Lodge. Several of the St. Johns temperance workers have arranged with Mr. McHenry to give an address here next Tuesday night in Bickner's hall. Everybody is invited. His subject will be "Intoxicants Historically Treated." Don't fail to hear him.

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